

## COLLOQUY

*Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections, and comments about earlier articles appearing in **Word Ways**. Comments received at least one month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.*

Reaction to Jeff Grant's ten-square was generally favorable. George Ropes: the best article in **Word Ways** this year. Murray Pearce: .. admirable and impressive, but not quite satisfying. [Palmer Peterson] would not have accepted Sol Springs, ses tunnels, les tunnels, ootsprings, Bessonnels, amputieren, imputieren or imponieren. But to reach for the 10-square must probably require different standards. Philip Cohen: Pity about ses/les tunnels and the German -ierens, but it gives one hope nonetheless. Jeff Grant himself offers a few corrections to the article: Dieffenbach (p.198), ootspring, not outspring (p.204, second line from end), page 921 (p.205), Bessonneau (p.206), ITINERATES, not ITINIRATES (p.207). No one, not even Dmitri Borgmann, commented on the fact that the title of the article was carefully crafted to add up to 227 (see "Some Odd Title Malarkey" in the February 1985 issue).

Eric Albert adds the following to Benjamin Zimmer's rock-music wordplay: "In the song 'Sodomy' for the 1960s rock musical Hair, the word sodomy is sung to the melody notes SO, DO, MI. Leonard Bernstein does a similar thing in his 'Mass' where in one song the singer keeps singing about 'me and my soul', with me and soul coming in on the melodic notes MI and SOL (alternate spelling of the musical note SO)."

Laurence Urdang writes in response to Maxey Brooke's "Uh-Huh": "Generally, I would defend the definition '(used to indicate an affirmative answer)', on the grounds that the notion of affirmation ought to be broad enough to include 'I'm listening,' 'Very true,' and 'How interesting,' just as one might say it includes 'I'm still here (and awake - I haven't fallen asleep)' and other indications that the listener is alive and well. Some people answer the phone by saying 'Yes?' The matter of impoliteness aside, I doubt that any dictionary lists that use among the definitions of yes .. Interjections are a problem for lexicographers because, by their very nature, their inflections can convey quite different - often contradictory - meanings. As dictionaries do not usually include suprasegmentals in their phonetic transcriptions, they are hard put to record, say, the many meanings of Oh! which can express horror, surprise, enlightenment or various other notions .."

Several readers made additions to Richard Lederer's list of words in which a silent letter is changed to a sounded one when a suffix is added. R. Merrill Ely suggests G phlegm-phlegmatic, but adds "I cannot be sure that the etymology of the two words is the same, or whether this is a case of convergence of two different words." He also gives N condemn-condemnation. Edward Wolpow supplies D Vaud-Vaudois, H fellah-fellahin, S Descartes-Cartesian, and T Carot-carotite. Frank Rubin gives A real-reality, L psalm-psalmody, Z pince-nez, pince-nez (plural form), and T pants, pantsuit (note that chance and chants are homonymic, so the T in pants must be silent. Philip Cohen suspects that French could help with examples, citing T petit-petite from Webster's Third. "P receipt-reception involves no more change of form than C muscle-muscular. R should be all over the place in Boston; usually R is a schwa offglide rather than silent, but I think R par-parring is a true silent-to-sounded example."

Jeff Grant discovered a place-name in the Official Standard Names Gazetteer for Angola containing nine consecutive vowels, showing that Dutch is not the only language addicted to long strings of vowels: Cauaiauaia.

Eric Albert observes that HOMOPHOBIA was originally coined and used as a political/analytical device whose major point was relabeling: instead of homosexuality being a disease or perversion, the negative attitudes toward homosexuals were to be considered a disease or perversion. Ironically, the newer definition of HOMOPHOBIA cited by the Word Wurcher in the November 1985 Colloquy would be considered homophobic in this original sense.

Philip Cohen sent a piece from The Listener of August 30 1984 in which Fritz Spiegl echoed one of John Henrick's "Limits of the Human Life Cycle" examples: from erection to resurrection.

David Miller, author of "Word Mastery", says that **Word Ways** readers can obtain copies of his booklet for \$3.50 airmail or \$2.25 surface mail. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the University of Warwick, and orders addressed to David Miller, Department of Philosophy, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

Eric Albert responds to the Word Wurcher's comments about Dracula's first name: "While Vlad the Impaler is frequently cited as the historical figure on which the Dracula legends are based, I know of no reason to assume that the character in Bram Stoker's novel has that name .. I don't recall seeing any other name [but the title Voivode] when I read the book."

Jeff Grant footnotes Alan Frank's "The Middle of an Alphabetic List" in the August 1984 **Word Ways**: in the Official Standard Names Gazetteer of Madagascar, almost half the place names start with the letter A, and the midpoint of the gazetteer is somewhere in BE.